

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system for coating one or both sides of a flat substrate which can be moved through the vacuum system in a transportation plane by means of a transport system, ~~whereby~~ wherein the vacuum system comprises at least one magnetron with magnetron surrounding area and is subdivided into successive compartments in ~~the~~ a direction of transportation of the substrate by ~~closeable~~ separating walls ~~comprising~~ having closeable suction openings, which compartments can be evacuated either directly via a vacuum connection located on ~~the~~ a compartment or indirectly via a suction opening in ~~the~~ a separating wall, ~~whereby~~ wherein at least one compartment comprises an upper partial compartment which is located above the substrate, ~~the~~ said partial compartment comprising, in at least one of ~~the~~ outer walls thereof, a closeable upper opening, ~~characterized in such way that~~ and wherein horizontal and/or vertical elements (17, 20) ~~can be mounted~~ are mountable in at least one of the upper partial compartments (18) for subdivision of the upper partial compartment (18) into several sections (21).

2. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in such way that~~ wherein at least a further lower compartment (19) limited by the separating walls (4) is located below the transportation plane (5), ~~which in at least one of the outer walls~~ said lower compartment having (7, 8, 9) ~~exhibits~~ a closable lower opening (23) in one of the outer walls as well as a closeable suction opening (12) in each separating wall (4).

3. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in such way that~~ wherein horizontal and/or vertical elements (17, 20) ~~can be mounted~~ are mountable in the lower partial compartment (19) for subdivision of the lower partial compartment (19) into several sections (21).

4. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to Claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, ~~characterized in such way that~~ wherein the lower partial compartment (19) exhibits a

structure reflected around the transportation plane of the upper compartment (18) opposite ~~it~~ the lower partial compartment, above the transportation plane.

5. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 12 to 4, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the upper and lower openings (10, 23) can be closed with covers (11, 11a) and ~~that~~ at least one magnetron (15) is mounted on a cover of said covers (11, 11a) and/or a vacuum connection (16) is present.

6. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the covers (11, 11a) exhibit the same dimensions to one another.

7. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 12 to 6, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the upper (10) and lower (23) openings of all partial compartments (18, 19) exhibit the same dimensions.

8. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 12 to 7, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ at least one of the upper (10) or lower (23) openings in a side outer wall (9) of an upper and/or lower partial compartment (18, 19) is ~~designed as~~ comprises a vacuum connection (16).

9. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 8, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the horizontal and/or vertical elements (17, 20) for subdivision of the upper and lower partial compartments (18, 19) are even.

10. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 9, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ at least one horizontal element (17) of a partial compartment can be placed on holders (24) ~~exhibiting~~ having a horizontal supporting surface, which holders are present on at least two opposite walls of the partial compartment (18, 19).

11. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 10, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ a vertical element (20) is fastened on at least one horizontal element (17) by means of a joint (26) and the vertical element (20) extends between the horizontal element (17) and the upper or lower outer walls (7, 8) directly opposite the horizontal element (17).

12. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 10, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ at least one horizontal element (17) exhibits has an insertion device for holding a vertical element (20) and the vertical element (20) extends between the horizontal element (17) and the upper or lower outer walls (7, 8) directly opposite the horizontal element (17).

13. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to Claim 11 ~~or~~ 12, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ fixing elements (25) are present on ~~the~~ a cover (11) which closes the upper or lower opening (10, 23) located in the upper or lower outer wall (7, 8) opposite the horizontal element (17), which fixing elements fix the vertical element (20) in its position after closure of the upper or lower opening (10, 23).

14. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 13, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ in at least one upper and/or lower respective partial compartment (18, 19) a horizontal element (17) is located in such a way that a section (21) of the respective partial compartment (18, 19) is separated off ~~towards~~ the from a space surrounding the transportation plane (5).

15. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 13 to 14, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the horizontal and/or vertical elements (17, 23) of at least one partial compartment (18, 19) have a closeable additional suction opening (12).

16. (Currently amended) Elongate vacuum system according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 to 15, ~~characterized in such way that wherein~~ the size of the suction openings (12) in the

separating walls (4) of the upper and/or lower partial compartments (~~18, 19~~) and/or of the additional suction openings (12) in the horizontal and/or vertical elements (~~17, 20~~) ~~are designed to be~~ is adjustable.